

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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Contact: Brook Kohn, Policy Manager, Office of Commissioner Paula Brooks (614) 525-6638

Bart Logan, Community Relations Manager, Office of Commissioner Paula Brooks (614) 525-5729

**Franklin County Commissioner Paula Brooks to Participate in 4th Meeting of
White House Climate Task Force**

COLUMBUS, Ohio – Immediately following her vote today to approve [an innovative new program to increase affordability and access to nutritious local foods for Central Ohio's most vulnerable residents](#), Franklin County Commissioner **Paula Brooks** departed for Washington, D.C., to address the issues of food security, climate resilience and more on a national scale.

Commissioner Brooks will convene with the 25 other governors, county officials, mayors and tribal leaders that make up the bipartisan White House Task Force on Climate Preparedness and Resilience Wednesday for its fourth and final scheduled meeting. The Task Force members, staff and senior Administration officials are set to deliberate on, and further refine, recommendations that will be provided to the President this fall.

"Preparedness and resilience are very important topics to both ensure our community's safety and security, as well as spur innovation, creating new, good jobs in the technology area," Commissioner Brooks said. "We have a duty to ensure that our future generations are prepared and resilient from the climate impacts that we know are coming."

Commissioner Brooks, Ohio's only appointee to the Task Force, has been a leader in developing recommendations related to the energy sector and addressing food system security and resilience, among other policy areas. Since being appointed to the Task Force in November of last year, the county's longest-serving commissioner has met with dozens of academic and environmental experts, as well as public sector and industry representatives, to seek input on this critical national security issue.

"A utility executive just shared with me that his company is preparing for the '100-year storms' of major magnitude, like Hurricane Katrina, to become 40- or 50-year storms," Commissioner Brooks said. "More unsettling is that here in Central Ohio, and all across our state, we need to prepare for the '10-year storms' to become once-a-year events."

"This isn't just speculation," Commissioner Brooks added. "It's based on risk management modeling, utilizing the most up-to-date business tools to determine the probability for those events. We must be prepared and we must be resilient to protect our economy and our children's future. That's exactly what this Task Force is focused on."

For more information on Commissioner Brooks' efforts on the White House Task Force on Climate Preparedness and Resilience, visit <http://franklincountyohio.gov/commissioners/paula-brooks/task-force.cfm>. For all the latest news and updates, follow Commissioner Brooks on Twitter [@PaulaBrooksOhio](#) and Franklin County [@FranklinCoOhio](#).

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